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PROPOSED BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1991 AND 1992

Note by the Secretary-General

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* E/1991/2.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic and Social Council, in accordance with rule 8 of its rules of procedure, shall draw up at its organizational session, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, its basic programme of work.

2. At its second regular session of 1988, the Council, in resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 43/432, adopted a series of measures aimed at revitalizing the Council, improving its functioning and enabling it to exercise effectively its functions and powers as set out in Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations. With regard to its working methods and organization of work, the Council, inter alia, decided that, in formulating its biennial programme of work, the Council should, to the extent possible, consolidate similar or closely related issues under a single agenda item, in order to consider and take action on them in an integrated manner. The Council also decided that, prior to the organizational session, the President, with the co-operation of the other members of the Bureau, should arrange for consultations with members of the Council on the draft programme of work and provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General and on the allocation of agenda items and make proposals thereon for consideration by the Council.

3. At its second regular session of 1989, the Council, in resolution 1989/114 on further measures for the implementation of Council resolution 1988/77, decided to consider at its organizational session for 1990 the establishment, on a provisional basis, of a multi-year programme identifying major policy themes for in-depth consideration each year.

4. At its organizational session for 1990, the Council, in decision 1990/205, established on a provisional basis a multi-year work programme for the in-depth consideration of major policy themes during the period 1992-1994, which would be considered in the context of a high-level special meeting of the Council and a review of the current sessional arrangements. The list of themes would be reviewed annually and adjusted on a roll-over basis as necessary and as stipulated in the relevant paragraphs of Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114.

5. The Council also decided to request the President of the Council, in the context of the indicative multi-year programme for the in-depth consideration of major policy themes during the period 1992-1994, to continue his consultations on all relevant matters concerning the revitalization of the Council.

6. The Council further decided to hold discussions in 1990 on the issue of the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular, on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic co-operation. In accordance with paragraph 22 of Council resolution 1989/114, the Council devoted one day at its second regular session of 1990, on 12 July, to an informal exchange of views on this theme. The discussions were to assist the Council in preparing for a high-level in-depth consideration of the theme in the context of its multi-year work programme over a period of two days in 1991.

7. In connection with the major policy theme for 1991, in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) (iii) of Council resolution 1988/77, the Council decided to discuss as an urgent and emerging issue the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular, on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic co-operation (see also Council resolution 1990/68 and General Assembly resolution 45/182). The discussion of that theme will take place at a special meeting at an appropriately high level, without excluding the ministerial level, to be held on 4 and 5 July 1991, during the second regular session of the Council. The special meeting will be separate from the regular proceedings of the Council and precede its general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments. The Council will have before it the analytical report of the Secretary-General, which will include complete information on patterns of trade, financial flows and investments in the context of the recent evolution of East-West relations and its consequences for the developing countries.

8. In its decision 1990/205, the Council decided to invite the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the Council, to take the necessary measures to ensure adequate preparation for the special meeting, and also invited all the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system to contribute to the successful outcome of the special meeting.

9. The Secretary-General submits herewith for consideration by the Council a proposed basic programme of work for 1991 and 1992 and proposed provisional agenda for 1991.

10. Section I contains the proposed provisional agenda for the regular sessions of the Council in 1991. Section II contains the annotations to the agenda items, the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation, as well as suggestions for the allocation of items. Section III, which will be issued as an addendum to the present document, lists the questions which, in accordance with decisions adopted by the Council and the General Assembly, should be included in the Council's programme of work for 1992.

11. At its thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly requested the Council, in discharging its responsibilities in preparing the work of the Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, to take fully into account the approved programme of work for the Second Committee of the General Assembly in formulating its own biennial programme of work and, in that context, (a) to concentrate, in its consideration of reports of intergovernmental bodies submitted through it to the Assembly, on the co-ordination aspect of the work of those bodies in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations; (b) to consider undertaking an in-depth review of the reports of intergovernmental bodies which the Assembly did not consider directly in a given year and to submit substantive recommendations thereon to the Assembly for consideration and action; (c) to consider reviewing those reports of intergovernmental bodies which the Assembly considered directly in a given year but not to consider draft proposals on them, except specific recommendations contained in the reports which required action by the Council and proposals that concerned matters relating to the co-ordination aspect of the work of those bodies; and (d) in some cases, as it deemed

appropriate, to transmit certain reports directly to the Assembly without debate (resolution 39/217).

12. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/217, the report of the World Food Council will not be considered by the Assembly in 1991. It is therefore expected that the Council will undertake an in-depth review of that report and submit substantive recommendations thereon to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session for consideration and action. The Council is also called upon to concentrate on the co-ordination aspect of the work of that body.

13. Similarly, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/217, the reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Commission on Human Settlements and the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development will be considered by the Assembly in 1991. It is therefore expected that the Council will review those reports but not consider draft proposals on them, except specific recommendations contained therein which require action by the Council and proposals that concern matters relating to the co-ordination aspect of the work of those bodies, and, if it deems appropriate, transmit the reports directly to the Assembly without debate.

14. With regard to the report of the Trade and Development Board, the Council may wish to consider the report of the Board on the second part of its thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 11-22 March 1991) and transmit directly to the Assembly the report of the Board on the first part of its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 23 September-4 October 1991).

15. It will be noted that an item on public administration and finance has not been included in the proposed programme of work at this stage. The Council will recall that, at its resumed second regular session of 1990, on 9 November 1990, it decided that the Tenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance, which was to have been held from 30 January to 9 February 1991, would be held in September 1991, with the exact dates and the venue to be decided by the Council at its organizational session for 1991 (decision 1990/287).

16. With regard to the selection of a subject relating to interregional co-operation, of interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional co-operation pursuant to Council decision 1982/174, the Council will be informed of the joint recommendations of the executive secretariats of the regional commissions in this regard.

17. At its resumed second regular session of 1990, the Council decided to consider the note verbale dated 27 September 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1990/121), regarding the enlargement of the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at its organizational session for 1991 within the context of the programme of work of the Council for 1991 (decision 1990/285) (see agenda for the organizational session in document E/1991/2).

18. Report of the South Commission. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the Council, to convene during the second regular session of 1991 of the Council a meeting devoted to an informal exchange of views on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the South Commission, in particular in its overview and summary, invited Governments and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to submit their views on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report for consideration at that meeting of the Council, and invited the President of the Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the outcome of the informal exchange of views (resolution 45/195).

I. PROPOSED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR SESSIONS OF 1991 OF THE COUNCIL

A. First regular session (7-31 May 1991)

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.
3. Non-governmental organizations.
4. United Nations University.
5. Statistical and cartographic questions:
   (a) Statistics;
   (b) Cartography.
6. Human rights questions.
7. Advancement of women.
8. Social development.
9. World social situation.
10. Narcotic drugs.
11. Elections and nominations.
12. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991.

B. Second regular session (Geneva, 3-26 July 1991)

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments.
3. Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council.
4. Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries.
5. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

6. International co-operation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl.

7. Regional co-operation.

8. Development and international economic co-operation:

   (a) Trade and development; 1/

   (b) Food and agriculture; 2/

   (c) Science and technology for development; 1/

   (d) Transnational corporations;

   (e) Natural resources;

   (f) Population;

   (g) Human settlements; 1/

   (h) Environment; 1/

   (i) Desertification and drought; 1/

   (j) Transport of dangerous goods;

   (k) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development; 1/

   (l) World Decade for Cultural Development. 1/

9. Industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries.

10. International co-operation in the field of informatics.

11. Operational activities for development.

12. Co-ordination questions.

13. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

1/ Questions which will be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

2/ The report of the World Food Council will not be considered by the General Assembly in 1991. The Council is therefore expected to undertake an in-depth review of the report.

14. Programme and related questions:

    (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

    (b) Calendar of conferences.

15. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

16. Disaster reduction and relief:

    (a) Fight against the screw-worm infestation;

    (b) International strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa;

    (c) Disaster relief co-ordination.

17. Special economic and humanitarian assistance.

18. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 3/

Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3/ In accordance with Council resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is transmitted to the General Assembly without debate, unless the Council decides otherwise, at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner, at the time of the adoption of its agenda.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL

A. First regular session (7-31 May 1991)

Items for consideration in plenary meetings

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organisational matters.

2. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

3. Non-governmental organizations.

4. United Nations University.

5. Statistical and cartographic questions:

   (a) Statistics;

   (b) Cartography.

11. Elections and nominations.

12. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991.

Items for consideration by the Second (Social) Committee

6. Human rights questions.

7. Advancement of women.

8. Social development.

9. World social situation.

10. Narcotic drugs.

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

19. In accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.1), the first regular session of the Council will begin on the first Tuesday in May. The session is scheduled to be held at Headquarters from 7 to 31 May 1991.

20. Emergency assistance to Somalia. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue to co-ordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to help Somalia in its emergency and rehabilitation programme, to apprise the Council at its first regular session of 1991 of his efforts, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 45/229). The Council will hear an oral report on the subject.

Item 2. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

21. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination with a view to submitting to the General Assembly the Council's report as requested in paragraph 11 of Assembly resolution 39/16.

22. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 10 December 1983 the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; approved the Programme of Action for the Second Decade annexed to the resolution and called upon all States to co-operate in its implementation; and requested the Council to take charge, with the help of the Secretary-General, of co-ordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action and of evaluating the activities undertaken during the Second Decade (resolution 38/14).

23. At its thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided upon specific action to be carried out during the period 1985-1989; requested Governments to forward a report every two years on the action taken under the Programme of Action, on the basis of a questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General, which reports would be transmitted to the Council for its consideration; requested the Council, during the period of the Decade, to submit an annual report to the Assembly, containing: (a) an enumeration of the activities undertaken or contemplated to achieve the objectives of the Decade, including the activities of Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, (b) a review and appraisal of those activities and (c) its suggestions and recommendations (resolution 39/16). At its forty-second session, the General Assembly approved the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993 (resolution 42/47).

24. At its first regular session of 1985, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit annual reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (resolution 1985/19). At its first regular session of 1987, the Council requested the Secretary-General to present, in his future annual reports to the Council on the implementation of the Programme of Action for

the Second Decade, more detailed information on the relevant activities of all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1987/2). At its first regular session of 1990, the Council adopted resolution 1990/49 on this subject.

25. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to implement immediately those activities scheduled for the period 1985-1989 not yet carried out and to proceed with the implementation of the activities scheduled for the biennium 1990-1991, requested him, therefore, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 42/47 and 44/52, to ensure that the necessary and additional resources were included in the proposed programme budgets for the bienniums 1990-1991 and 1992-1993 to provide for the implementation of the activities of the Second Decade and requested him to inform the Assembly of the steps taken in that regard, requested him also to continue to accord the highest priority, in executing the plan of activities, to measures for combating apartheid, took note of the report on the activities of the Second Decade, and reiterated its requests to the Economic and Social Council, throughout the Decade, to submit a report annually to the General Assembly (resolution 45/105).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Item 3. Non-governmental organizations

26. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Headquarters, 21 January-1 February 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee were approved by the Council in its decision 1989/107.

27. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which meets biennially, reports to the Council in accordance with Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1926 (XLIV).

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Item 4. United Nations University

28. The Council will consider the report of the Council of the United Nations University on its work during the period from January to December 1990 (General Assembly resolutions 3081 (XXVIII) and 39/217). 4/ The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolution 45/220.

Documentation

Report of the Council of the United Nations University

4/ The report will not be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

Item 5. Statistical and cartographic questions

(a) Statistics

29. The Council will consider the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-sixth session (Headquarters, 4-13 February 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein (resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) and 1566 (L)). The provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-sixth session were approved by the Council in its decision 1989/115.

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-sixth session

(b) Cartography

30. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 20-28 February 1991) (decision 1987/136).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

Item 6. Human rights questions

31. The Council will consider the general comments adopted by the Human Rights Committee at its forty-first session and the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fifth session.

32. The Council will also consider the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-seventh session (Geneva, 28 January-8 March 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation of the forty-seventh session were approved by the Council in its decision 1990/253.

33. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 23 March 1976. In accordance with article 45 of the Covenant, the Human Rights Committee reports annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. In 1991, the Human Rights Committee is to hold its forty-first session at Headquarters from 25 March to 12 April, its forty-second session at Geneva from 8 to 26 July and its forty-third session at Geneva from 21 October to 8 November.

34. It will be recalled that, at its organizational session for 1983, the Council invited the Human Rights Committee to consider the possibility of rescheduling its meetings so that its report could be submitted to the General Assembly through the Council at its first regular session (decision 1983/101). At its organisational session for 1985, the Council agreed to the interim arrangement proposed by the Human Rights Committee, namely, that the Committee would transmit to the Council,

on a regular basis, the text of the general comments adopted by the Committee in accordance with article 40, paragraph 4, of the Covenant; and, without prejudice to further consideration of the present arrangements at a future session, the Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit the annual report of the Human Rights Committee directly to the General Assembly (decision 1985/105).

35. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, entrusted by the Council, as from 1987, with overseeing the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolution 1985/17), will report on its fifth session, to be held at Geneva from 26 November to 14 December 1990. It will be recalled that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 3 January 1976. Under article 16 of the Covenant, States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit to the Secretary-General reports on the measures which they have adopted and on the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in the Covenant. The Secretary-General is required to transmit copies of the reports to the Council for its consideration. The Secretary-General is also required to transmit to the specialized agencies copies of the reports, or any relevant parts thereof, from States parties to the Covenant which are also members of those specialized agencies in so far as they relate to matters that fall within the purview of the agencies in accordance with their constitutional instruments.

36. At its sixtieth session, in 1976, the Council laid down the procedures for the implementation of the Covenant (resolution 1988 (LX)). The Council set out a programme under which States parties would furnish, in biennial stages, the reports referred to in article 16 of the Covenant, as follows: first stage, rights covered by articles 6 to 9; second stage, rights covered by articles 10 to 12; third stage, rights covered by articles 13 to 15. The Council also called upon the specialized agencies to submit to the Council reports on the progress made in the observance of the provisions of the Covenant falling within the scope of their activities, as provided under article 18 of the Covenant.

37. At its first regular session of 1985, the Council decided, while maintaining the current programme of biennial reports for the first cycle of the reporting procedure under article 16 of the Covenant, to prolong by one year, the periodicity of reporting under the second and subsequent cycles of the reporting procedure (decision 1985/132). At its first regular session of 1988, the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that States parties be requested to submit a single report within two years of the entry into force of the Covenant for the State party concerned and, thereafter, at five-year intervals (resolution 1988/4).

38. At its first regular session of 1978, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1988 (LX), the Council decided to establish, for the purpose of assisting it in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant, a sessional working group composed of 15 members of the Council which were also States parties to the Covenant (decision 1978/10). At its first regular session of 1985, the Council decided that the Working Group established by Council decision 1978/10 and modified by Council decision 1981/158 and resolution 1982/33 should be renamed "Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights"; that the

Committee should have 18 members who should be experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights, serving in their personal capacity, due consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of different forms of social and legal systems; that the Committee should meet annually for a period of up to three weeks, taking into account the number of reports to be examined; and that it should submit to the Council a report on its activities and make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature on the basis of its consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies, in order to assist the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant; the Council also decided to review the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Committee at its first regular session of 1990, and subsequently every five years, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution of its membership (resolution 1985/17).

39. At its first regular session of 1990, the Council approved the Committee's provisional rules of procedure as adopted by the Committee at its third session (E/1989/22, annex IV) and amended at its fourth session (E/1990/23) (decision 1990/251).

40. Commission on Human Rights. The report of the Commission is expected to include its response to the following resolutions:

(a) Council resolution 1990/48 on the enlargement of the Commission, in which the Council decided to increase the membership of the Commission on Human Rights to 53 and to allocate the 10 additional seats among the regional groups of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, further decided that the enlarged membership of the Commission should be elected in 1991, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the organizational implications of the resolution for consideration by the Commission at its forty-seventh session, and requested the Commission to submit its observations to the Council at its first regular session of 1991;

(b) General Assembly resolution 45/92, in which the Assembly requested the Commission to consider the subject of human rights and scientific and technological developments at its forty-seventh session, in the light of the report and recommendations of the Working Group charged with the elaboration of a body of principles for the protection of persons with mental illness and for the improvement of mental health care, with a view to submitting the draft principles to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council;

(c) Assembly resolution 45/94, in which the Assembly encouraged the Commission, with the assistance of its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, to continue studying the problems of the environment and its relation to human rights, with a view to submitting to the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through the Council, a report on progress made on the matter;

(d) Assembly resolution 45/97, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission to continue to make proposals to the Assembly, through the Council, on

the future course of action on the right to development, in particular on practical measures for the implementation and enhancement of the Declaration on the Right to Development;

(e) Assembly resolution 45/36, in which the Assembly requested the Commission to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and to report, through the Council, to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

(f) Assembly resolution 45/151, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission, at its forty-seventh session, to give priority to the review of the fundamental factors that negatively affect the observance of the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council;

(g) Assembly resolution 45/72, in which the Assembly decided to keep under consideration, during its forty-sixth session, the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador in order to re-examine the situation in the light of the information provided by the Commission and the Council;

(h) Assembly resolution 45/174, in which the Assembly decided to keep under consideration, during its forty-sixth session, the situation of human rights in Afghanistan in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council.

41. Infringements of trade union rights in South Africa. At its first regular session of 1990, the Council requested the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa of the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study the situation and to report thereon to the Commission on Human Rights and the Council, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its first regular session of 1991, for consideration and action, as appropriate, a report on the implementation of the resolution (Council resolution 1990/44).

42. Suppression of the traffic in persons. At its first regular session of 1990, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report further to the Council, at its first regular session of 1991, on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in Council resolution 1983/30, on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others, by those Member States, United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations that had not yet submitted such information, endorsed the request of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1989/35, which had been reiterated in its resolution 1990/63, that the Secretary-General designate the Centre for Human Rights as the focal point for the co-ordination of activities in the United Nations for the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery, and decided to consider the question of the suppression of the traffic in persons at its first regular session of 1991 under the agenda item entitled "Human rights" (resolution 1990/46).

43. International Year for the World's Indigenous People. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly proclaimed 1993 as International Year for the World's Indigenous People, with a view to strengthening international co-operation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education, health and so on, recommended that the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system consider at their respective forums the contributions that they could make to the success of the Year, requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider at its forty-seventh session possible United Nations activities in connection with the Year, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a draft programme of activities based on the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and of the specialized agencies (resolution 45/164).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the general comments of the Human Rights Committee adopted at its forty-first session

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fifth session

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-seventh session

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1990/44 on infringements of trade union rights in South Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the suppression of traffic in persons

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the relevant section of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa of the Commission on Human Rights

Documentation for information

Reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)

Reports submitted by the specialized agencies in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)

Summary records of the fifth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Item 7. Advancement of women

44. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its tenth session (Vienna, 21 January-1 February 1991), the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on the work

of its thirty-fifth session (Vienna, 27 February-8 March 1991) and the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Santo Domingo, 18-22 February 1991). The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 1990/214.

45. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). The Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was established under article 17 of the Convention for the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention. Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall report annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Council and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties to the Convention.

46. Report of the Commission on the Status of Women. In accordance with Council resolution 1987/24 on the long-term programme of work of the Commission to the year 2000, the following three priority themes are to be considered by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session: under equality, vulnerable women, including migrant women; under development, national, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations; under peace, refugee and displaced women and children. The report of the Commission is expected to include the recommendations of the Commission on the following questions:

(a) Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. By its resolution 1990/14, the Council, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to carry out, through the Department of Public Information, a world-wide educational campaign to increase awareness of the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, and to report to the Council at its first regular session of 1991, through the Commission, on the implementation of the resolution. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/129 on the question and requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to invite Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to report periodically, through the Commission, to the Economic and Social Council on activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Forward-looking Strategies;

(b) World conference on women in 1995. In its resolution 1990/12, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 45/129, the Council recommended that a world conference on women be held in 1995, requested the Commission, as the preparatory body for the world conference, to include preparations for the conference in its regular work programme during the period 1991-1995, and requested the Secretary-General to make proposals on the preparation and convening of the world conference for submission to the Commission as its thirty-fifth session.

47. Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. At its sixtieth session, in 1976, the

Council decided to establish the Institute as an autonomous body under the auspices of the United Nations, funded through voluntary contributions; it also decided on guidelines for the Institute (resolution 1998 (LX)). The statute of the Board was approved by the Council and endorsed by the General Assembly (Council decision 1984/124 and Assembly resolution 39/249). The Institute functions under the authority of a Board of Trustees, which reports annually to the Council.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its tenth session

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-fifth session

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Item 8. Social development

48. The Council will consider the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session (Vienna, 11-20 February 1991). The provisional agenda and documentation for the session were approved by the Council in its decision 1989/131.

49. Commission for Social Development. Its report is expected to include the recommendations of the Commission on the following questions, of which the Council is also seised:

(a) International Year of the Family. The General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, proclaimed 1994 as International Year of the Family, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft programme for the preparation for and observance of the Year and to submit a progress report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session, and designated the Commission as the preparatory body and the Council as the co-ordinating body of the Year (resolution 44/82). At its forty-fifth session, the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the preparation for and observance of the Year, and also requested the Secretary-General to finalise a draft programme for the preparation for and observance of the Year and to submit it for consideration by the Commission at its session in 1991 and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the progress made in the preparation for the Year (resolution 45/133);

(b) Policies and programmes involving youth. The General Assembly, at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions, called upon all States, all United Nations bodies, in particular the Economic and Social Council through the Commission for Social Development, the specialized agencies and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organisations, to continue to exert all possible efforts for the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth (resolutions 44/59 and 45/103);

(c) Extreme poverty. The Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1988, urged the Commission to suggest, on the basis of an assessment of its studies, strategies that would help put an end to the marginalization of people living in extreme poverty, irrespective of the economic and social system to which they belong, and to submit its views to the Council for consideration at its first regular session of 1991 (resolution 1988/47);

(d) Preparatory activities for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action on Aging, in 1992. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly decided to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Aging in the plenary General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in 1992 (resolution 43/93). At its first regular session of 1989, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Council to monitor the preparatory activities for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action, and recommended the convening of a special ad hoc working group of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session to monitor the activities for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action (resolution 1989/50). At its forty-fifth session, the Assembly endorsed the decision of the Council and recommended that the Commission give consideration to the desirability of convening regional and sectoral meetings on the selection of targets in the field of aging during 1991 and 1992 and global consultations in 1993 and 1997 (resolution 45/106);

(e) Negative social consequences of alcohol use. The General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, took note of the report of the Expert Meeting on the Negative Social Consequences of Alcohol Use, held at Oslo from 27 to 31 August 1990, requested the Secretary-General to make the report available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session, and requested the Commission to report on its discussion of the report and on the comments from Member States to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1991, with proposals for future action (resolution 45/134);

(f) At its first regular session of 1990, the Council authorized the Commission to consider the establishment of an ad hoc working group of governmental experts on the equalization of opportunities for disabled children, youth and adults (resolution 1990/26).

50. Crime prevention and criminal justice. The Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was held at Havana from 27 August to 7 September 1990. At its first regular session of 1990, the Economic and Social Council invited the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, in considering the report of the Eighth Congress, to take appropriate measures to ensure the timely implementation and proper follow-up of the recommendations contained therein, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, at its first regular session of 1991, a progress report on the implementation of the resolution, paying particular attention to action taken by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session (resolution 1990/27). The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolution 45/121.

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1990/27 on crime prevention and criminal justice

Item 9. World social situation

51. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue monitoring the world social situation in depth on a regular basis and to submit the next full report on the world social situation, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly in 1993, and also requested the Secretary-General to submit an interim report to the Assembly, through the Commission for Social Development and the Council, every two years in the intervening period, starting in 1991 (resolution 44/56).

52. The Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1989, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the work being done within the United Nations system to improve and further develop quantitative and qualitative indicators that measure accurately the social condition and the standards of living of the world's population, particularly in developing countries (resolution 1989/72).

53. The Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1990, decided to include in the agenda of its first regular session of 1991 an item entitled "World social situation", for the purpose of considering, inter alia, the interim report on the world social situation and the report requested in paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1989/72. It also requested the Secretary-General, in preparing the interim report, to take into account paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1989/72, in which the Secretary-General was requested to give high priority to an analysis of the main indicators of social progress and standards of living, and to make a comprehensive analysis of the main causes and circumstances that explain negative trends in those indicators; chapters devoted to the study of specific social problems were to be related to global economic and social situations, taking into account both national and international conditions (resolution 1990/28).

54. The attention of the Council is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 45/87 on the world social situation and resolution 45/86 on the achievement of social justice.

Documentation

Interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work being done within the United Nations system to improve and further develop quantitative and qualitative indicators that measure accurately the social condition and the standards of living of the world's population, particularly in developing countries

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session

Item 10. Narcotic drugs

55. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-fourth session (Vienna, 30 January-8 February 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 1989/118.

56. It is expected that the Commission will report on its consideration of the following:

(a) Economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly invited the Commission to study the various recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs, in particular on the proposed framework for an in-depth study on the economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session through the Economic and Social Council (resolution 45/149);

(b) Enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control. At the same session, the Assembly requested the Commission, at its thirty-fourth session, to consider ways and means of improving its functioning as a policy-making body and to report its recommendations to the Council at its first regular session of 1991. It requested the Council, as a matter of urgency at that session, giving due consideration to the recommendations of the Commission, to undertake a review of, and decide on the appropriate changes needed to improve the functioning of, the Commission (resolution 45/179).

57. Report of the International Narcotics Control Board. In accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, the Board will report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on its work for 1990.

58. United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. At its first regular session of 1987, the Council decided that the Executive Director of the Fund should report regularly on the activities and programmes of the Fund to the Commission, and to the Council when the Council considered the report of the Commission (resolution 1987/32).

59. United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), to co-ordinate, at the inter-agency level, the development of a United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control aimed at the full implementation of all existing mandates and subsequent decisions of intergovernmental bodies throughout the system, using as a guide the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the recommendations in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline for Future

Activities in Drug Abuse Control. It also requested the executive heads of the United Nations bodies to report annually to ACC on the progress made in implementing the action plan and the Committee to include the same information in its annual report, so as to enable the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council to consider it, within their respective mandates, and to make appropriate reports to the General Assembly (Assembly resolution 44/141).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-fourth session

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1990

Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the development of a United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control

Item 11. Elections and nominations

60. The Council will hold elections to the following bodies:

Statistical Commission (E/1991/L.1)

Eight members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Two members from African States;

Two members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

One member from Latin American and Caribbean States;

One member from Western European and other States.

Population Commission (E/1991/L.1)

Nine members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Three members from African States;

Two members from Asian States;

One member from Eastern European States;

One member from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Two members from Western European and other States.

Commission for Social Development (E/1991/L.1)

Eleven members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Two members from African States;

Two members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Two members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Three members from Western European and other States.

Commission on Human Rights (E/1991/L.1)

(a) Fourteen members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations for a three-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Three members from African States;

Three members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Three members from Western European and other States;

(b) In addition, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution E/1990/48, the membership of the Commission will be increased to 53, allocating the 10 additional seats among the regional groups of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

Commission on the Status of Women (E/1991/L.1)

Ten members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations, for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Two members from African States;

Two members from Asian States;

One member from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Two members from Western European and other States.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1991/L.1)

Twenty members are to be elected for a term of four years, beginning on 1 January 1992. The Council, in its resolution 1983/5, decided to enlarge the membership of the Commission to 40, taking into account the special criteria used in electing members of the Commission and keeping the actual percentage. These criteria were specified by the Council in resolution 845 (XXXII), by which the Council decided that the members of the Commission would be elected (a) from among the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; (b) with due regard to the adequate representation of countries which were important producers of opium or coca leaves, of countries which were important in the field of the manufacture of narcotic drugs and of countries in which drug addiction or illicit traffic in narcotic drugs constituted an important problem; and (c) taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

Nomination of members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/1991/L.8)

Seven members are to be nominated by the Council, in accordance with Council resolution 2008 (LX), for election by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session to fill the vacancies in the Committee that will occur on 31 December 1991. The term of office is three years, beginning on 1 January 1992. The vacancies are to be filled according to the following pattern:

One member from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

One member from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Three members from Western European and other States.

Commission on Human Settlements (E/1991/L.2)

(a) Nineteen members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Five members from African States;

Five members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Four members from Western European and other States;

(b) In addition, the election of three members from African States and two members from Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1994 has been postponed from previous sessions.

Committee on Natural Resources

At its 38th meeting, on 9 November 1990, the Council postponed until a future session the election of:

(a) Six members from African States, three for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1994 and three for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1992;

(b) Six members from Asian States, three for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1994 and three for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1992;

(c) One member from Eastern European States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1994;

(d) Eight members from Western European and other States, four for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1994 and four for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1992.

Commission on Transnational Corporations (E/1991/L.3)

(a) Sixteen members are to be elected from all States for a three-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Four members from African States;

Three members from Asian States;

One member from Eastern European States;

Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Four members from Western European and other States;

(b) In addition, the election of one member from Latin American and Caribbean States and one member from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993 has been postponed from previous sessions.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (E/1991/L.4)

(a) Pursuant to Council resolutions 1982/67 and 1985/71, 17 members are to be elected for a three-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Four members from African States;

Four members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Four members from Western European and other States;

(b) The election of six members was postponed from previous sessions: four members from African States, three for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993 and one for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1991, as well as one member from Asian States and one member from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993.

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/1991/L.5)

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/244, 21 members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency for a three-year term, beginning on 1 August 1991, according to the following pattern:

Six members from African States;

Four members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Six members from Western European and other States.

Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/138, the Council is to elect one additional member to increase the membership of the Executive Committee from 43 to 44.

Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (E/1991/L.6)

Sixteen members are to be elected from among States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for a three-year term beginning on the first day of the organizational meeting of the Governing Council in February 1992, according to the following pattern:

Five members from African States;

Three members from Asian States and Yugoslavia;

One member from Eastern European States;

One member from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Six members from Western European and other States.

Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (E/1991/L.7)

Five members are to be elected from among States Members of the United Nations or members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1992, taking into account the need for balanced representation of economically developed and developing countries and other relevant factors, such as the representation of potential participating countries, both contributing and recipient, equitable geographical distribution and the representation of both developed and developing countries having commercial interests in international trade in foodstuffs, especially those highly dependent on such trade.

Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

In accordance with article III of the statute of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Board of Trustees consists of 11 members nominated by States and appointed by the Council with due regard to the fact that the Institute and its work are funded from voluntary contributions and to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Members of the Board serve in their individual capacities for a term of three years and are eligible for appointment for one additional term.

The term of office of five members of the Board expires on 30 June 1991. Taking into account the existing de facto geographical balance of the Board endorsed by the Council at previous sessions, the Council is to appoint one member from African States, one member from Asian States, one member from Eastern European States, one member from Latin American and Caribbean States and one member from Western European and other States for a three-year term, beginning on 1 July 1991. The names of the candidates submitted by Governments and their curricula vitae will be before the Council.

Nomination of members of the World Food Council (E/1991/L.9)

In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), the Council will be called upon to submit nominations to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session to fill the 12 vacancies that will occur in the World Food Council on 31 December 1991. On the basis of the distribution of membership in the World Food Council decided upon by the Assembly, the elections at the forty-sixth session will be held according to the following pattern:

Three members from African States;

Two members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Two members from Western European and other States.

Committee for the United Nations Population Award

In accordance with article 4 of the Regulations Governing the United Nations Population Award, adopted by the General Assembly (see resolution 36/201, annex), the Council is to elect 10 representatives of States Members of the United Nations for a period of three years, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and the need to include those Member States that have made contributions for the Award. The rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award are set out in Council decision 1982/112.

At its resumed second regular session of 1982, the Council agreed that, without prejudice to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, the seats would be distributed as follows: three seats for African States, two and a half seats for Asian States and Latin American States (the distribution to be determined by those two groups themselves, on the understanding that one group would have three seats and the other two, on a rotating basis); one seat for Eastern European States and one seat for Western European and other States (see E/1982/SR.54 and 58). The Council is therefore to elect the 10 members for a three-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Three members from African States;

Three members from Asian States;

One member from Eastern European States;

Two members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

One member from Western European and other States.

Item 12. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991

61. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the draft provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991 will be submitted to the Council for consideration, together with suggestions concerning the organization of the work of the session.

B. Second regular session (Geneva, 3-26 July 1991)

Items for consideration in plenary meetings

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments.

3. Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council.

4. Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries.

5. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

6. International co-operation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl.

18. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Items for consideration by the First (Economic) Committee

7. Regional co-operation.

8. Development and international economic co-operation.

9. Industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries.

10. International co-operation in the field of informatics.

Items for consideration by the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee

11. Operational activities for development.

12. Co-ordination questions.

13. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

14. Programme and related questions.

15. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

16. Disaster reduction and relief.

17. Special economic and humanitarian assistance.

Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

62. In accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.1), the second regular session of the Council will begin on the first Wednesday in July. The session is scheduled to be held at Geneva from 3 to 26 July 1991.

Item 2. General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments

63. The Council will hold a general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments, with a view to formulating and elaborating action-oriented recommendations. As recommended by the General Assembly, the Council considers a survey of current world economic conditions and trends, in the light of its responsibility under Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations to promote the solution of international economic problems, high standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development (General Assembly resolution 118 (II)).

64. As a basis for the general discussion, the Council will have before it the World Economic Survey, 1991, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 118 (II) and Council resolution 1983/50.

65. The World Economic Survey will examine major global economic developments in 1990 and early 1991, identify emerging issues and assess the implications for national and international action. The effects on the world economy of the end of the cold war, the economic consequences of the Persian Gulf crisis and institutional changes in the international trading system will receive particular attention. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/192, the Survey will contain a section analysing changes in net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries, the causes or factors related to such changes and their impact on growth and sustained development in developing countries.

66. At its second regular session of 1990, the Economic and Social Council decided to focus, at its second regular session of 1991, in its general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments, on the question of strengthening multilateral co-operation in international economic affairs, to be considered on the basis of a report to be prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with Council resolution 1989/111 (decision 1990/263).

67. The Committee for Development Planning will report on the work of its twenty-seventh session (Headquarters, 22-26 April 1991) (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1625 (LI)).

68. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Committee for Development Planning at its twenty-seventh session to consider the question of the inclusion of Namibia in the list of least developed countries and to report on its findings to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its second regular session of 1991 (Assembly resolution 45/198).

69. The Council will also have before it the summaries of the surveys of regional economic and social conditions prepared by the regional commissions, highlighting the main problems and prospects of those regions.

70. Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries. Studies by the Secretary-General on the question were initiated by the General Assembly in resolution 335 (XXIX) and have been regularly considered by the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. At its second regular session of 1987, the Council invited the Secretary-General to continue to study the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries and to submit an updated report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, taking into account the different efforts made and the experience gained by the developing countries in improving the efficiency of the public sector and, inter alia, paying special attention to the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 34/137 (Council resolution 1987/92).

71. Executive summaries of the activities of the specialized agencies. In resolution 1989/114, paragraph 11, the Council requested the specialized agencies to continue to submit annually to the Council executive summaries of their activities. These summaries will be made available to the Council.

Documentation

World Economic Survey, 1991

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening multilateral co-operation in international economic affairs

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-seventh session

Summaries of the surveys of economic and social conditions in the five regions, prepared by the regional commissions

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries

Item 3. Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council

72. At its second regular session of 1990, the Economic and Social Council stressed the need for the full and speedy implementation of the provisions of its resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114, decided to review the implementation of the measures agreed upon for the revitalization of the Council, pursuant to its responsibilities for promoting international economic and social co-operation and in accordance with the relevant articles of the Charter, at its second regular session of 1992, and invited the President of the Council to undertake informal consultations, open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations, on all relevant issues pertaining to the review of the implementation of the measures agreed upon for the revitalization of the Council, and to submit an interim report thereon to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 (resolution 1990/69).

73. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 45/177 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

Documentation

Report of the President of the Council on the review of the implementation of the measures agreed upon for the revitalization of the Council

Item 4. Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries

74. At its second regular session of 1990, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution S-18/3, containing the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and fully convinced of the need to implement the policies and commitments expressed in the Declaration, recommended to the governing bodies of the organs and organizations of the United Nations system that they include in their agenda the question of the implementation of the Declaration and invited them to report to the Council, at its second regular session of 1991, on steps taken by them and by Governments within their respective spheres of competence, with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Declaration (resolution 1990/54).

75. The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolution 45/234 on the implementation of the Declaration.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, by the organs and organizations of the United Nations system and by Governments

Item 5. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

76. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council, recalling General Assembly decision 40/432 and Council resolution 1989/86, expressed concern that the report requested by the Council in resolution 1989/86 had not been presented and requested the Secretary-General to prepare the report on Israeli land and water policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, taking into account Israeli settlement practices, and to submit that report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council (resolution 1990/53).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on Israeli land and water policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

Item 6. International co-operation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl

77. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly, noting with satisfaction Council resolution 1990/50 on international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, requested the organs, specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, in considering possible technical and other special assistance for the areas most affected, particularly in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, to bear in mind the unprecedented nature of the radiological and environmental disaster and of the emergency situation in those areas resulting from the long-term effects of man-made radiation on present and future generations, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 45/190).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 45/190

Item 7. Regional co-operation

78. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation and take the necessary action on the decisions and recommendations of the regional commissions contained therein.

79. The attention of the Council is drawn to the summaries of the surveys of economic and social conditions in the five regions prepared by the regional commissions, which are to be considered under item 2. At its first regular session of 1979, the Council decided to discontinue the submission to it of the reports of the regional commissions (decision 1979/1). The reports are transmitted directly to all Member States. The Secretary-General, in his annual report on regional co-operation, in addition to reporting on the meetings of the executive secretaries, highlights developments within each region and draws the Council's attention to specific issues requiring its consideration. The report of the Secretary-General will bring to the Council's attention any decisions or recommendations of the commissions that statutorily require approval by the Council.

80. At its second regular session of 1982, the Council decided to identify, at its annual organizational session, a subject relating to interregional co-operation, of common interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional co-operation and to request the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to submit their joint recommendations in this regard to the Council at its annual organizational session (decision 1982/174). A section on interregional co-operation dealing with the topic selected will be included in the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation.

81. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested each regional commission, within existing resources, to contribute to the prevention of the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes by monitoring and making regional assessments of the illegal traffic and its environmental and health implications, on a continuing basis in each region, and requested the Council to submit recommendations to the Assembly on the findings and conclusions of the regional commissions, in accordance with the consideration of environmental issues (resolution 44/226, part I). The report of the regional commissions on this question will be annexed to the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation.

82. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council decided to support fully the implementation by participating African States of the project proposal on interregional co-operation for the facilitation of international trade, prepared jointly by the regional commissions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with Council resolution 1989/118, and requested the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on regional co-operation a report on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution, as well as on the further consideration of Council resolution 1989/118 by the regional commissions for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia (resolution 1990/74).

83. Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar. At its second regular session of 1989, the Council, having considered the conclusions contained in the interim report prepared in compliance with Council resolution 1987/69 by the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe (E/1989/58), requested the Executive Secretaries of the two Commissions to submit to the Council, at its second regular session of 1991, an interim report on the project (resolution 1989/119).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation

Note by the Secretary-General on a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

Item 8. Development and international economic co-operation

(a) Trade and development

84. It is expected that the Council will consider the report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 11-22 March 1991) and transmit directly to the General Assembly the report of the Board on the first part of its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 23 September-4 October 1991).

85. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed Council resolution 1990/57, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council at its second regular

session of 1991, on institutional developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade, and requested the Secretary-General, in preparing that report, to solicit the views of all Governments and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system on the matter (resolution 45/201).

Documentation

Report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its thirty-seventh session

Report of the Secretary-General on institutional developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade

(b) Food and agriculture

86. The Council will review in depth the report of the World Food Council on its seventeenth session and submit recommendations thereon to the General Assembly for consideration and action. 5/

87. The attention of the Council is drawn to the discussion under item 11, entitled "Operational activities for development", of General Assembly resolution 45/218 on the governance of the World Food Programme.

88. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the World Food Council, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to submit to the Council, at its second regular session of 1991, an updated comprehensive report on trends in the international market for agricultural and tropical products and developments on the liberalization of international trade in agricultural and tropical products, taking into account the share of developing countries in such trade and the possible adverse short-term effects on net food importing developing countries, and on the follow-up to the section on agriculture of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (resolution 45/207).

Documentation

Report of the World Food Council on its seventeenth session

Report of the Secretary-General on trends in the international market for agricultural and tropical products and developments on the liberalization of international trade in agricultural and tropical products

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5/ The report of the World Food Council will not be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

(c) Science and technology for development

89. The Council will review the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session (Headquarters, 22 April-3 May 1991). In doing so, the Council will consider only specific recommendations contained therein that require action by the Council and proposals that concern matters relating to the co-ordination aspect of the work of the Committee. 6/

Documentation

Report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session

(d) Transnational corporations

90. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its seventeenth session (Headquarters, 10-19 April 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the session in decision 1990/273.

91. The report of the Commission is expected to include the recommendations of the Commission on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and follow-up to the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons established to conduct the public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa (Council resolution 1986/1). In that resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council on the implementation of the resolution. In resolution 1990/70, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare studies on the level and form of operation by transnational corporations in South Africa and an updated study on the responsibilities of home countries with respect to the transnational corporations operating in South Africa in violation of relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, and to report annually to the Commission, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 1990/70.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its seventeenth session

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6/ The report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development will be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

(e) Natural resources

92. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its twelfth session (Headquarters, 25 March-4 April 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the session in decision 1989/117.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its twelfth session

(f) Population

93. The Council will consider the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-sixth session (Headquarters, 27 February-8 March 1991) (Council resolution 150 (VII)) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the session in decision 1989/170.

94. In accordance with Council resolutions 1985/4 and 1987/72, the Commission will review the reports of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of population and on the monitoring of multilateral population assistance and transmit its views thereon to the Council.

95. Convening of an international meeting on population in 1994. At its second regular session of 1989, the Council decided, in principle, to convene in 1994, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international meeting on population that would bring together high-level governmental authorities and population experts and be open to all States as full participants, the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, designated the Population Commission as the preparatory committee for the international meeting on population, requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary organizational arrangements for the preparation of the international meeting on population and to submit to the Council, through the Population Commission at its twenty-sixth session, a detailed report on the state of the preparations for the meeting, and requested him to take appropriate measures to obtain resources for the international meeting and to report on the results obtained to the Council, through the Population Commission at its twenty-sixth session, in 1991 (resolution 1989/91). At its second regular session of 1990, the Council adopted decision 1990/262 on the question.

96. The Council will also consider the relevant parts of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme dealing with the United Nations Population Fund.

97. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 45/216 on population and development.

Documentation

Report of the Population Commission on its twenty-sixth session

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the convening of an international meeting on population in 1994

Relevant parts of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Population Fund

(g) Human settlements

98. The Council will review the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its thirteenth session (Harare, 29 April-8 May 1991), which will include the report of the Commission on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. 7/ In reviewing the report of the Commission, the Council will consider only specific recommendations contained therein that require action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the co-ordination aspect of the work of the Commission.

99. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. At its forty-second session, the Assembly requested the Commission to formulate a global strategy for shelter to the year 2000 for submission, through the Council, to the Assembly at its forty-third session (resolution 42/191). At that session, the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (A/43/8/Add.1), decided to review and clarify the Strategy on a biennial basis and requested the Commission, as the body designated to co-ordinate the implementation of the Strategy, to report biennially to the Assembly on the progress made in its implementation (resolution 43/181).

100. In its resolution 43/180 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the Assembly periodically informed, through the Council, on progress achieved in improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and the disadvantaged.

101. Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make available to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development from the United Nations regular budget the extra funds needed to prepare the comprehensive study on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory, as had been requested by the Trade and Development Board in its resolution 239 (XXIII), and also requested him to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution (Assembly resolution 44/174).

7/ The report of the Commission on Human Settlements will be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its thirteenth session, including the report of the Commission on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

Report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories

(h) Environment

102. The Council will review the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on its sixteenth session (Nairobi, 20-31 May 1991). 8/ In doing so, the Council will consider only specific recommendations contained therein that require action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the co-ordination aspect of the work of the Governing Council. 9/ The Governing Council of UNEP reports to the General Assembly through the Council (Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), sect. I, para. 3).

103. The report of the Governing Council is expected to include its views on international co-operation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergencies, pursuant to the request of the Assembly in its resolution 44/224.

104. Control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNEP, in accordance with the resolutions adopted at the Basel Conference, to establish an ad hoc working group to develop elements that might be included in a protocol on liability and compensation for damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes, and requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Director of UNEP, to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the progress achieved in the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention and of the present resolution (Assembly resolution 44/226, sect. III).

105. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187. In its resolution 42/186, the General Assembly adopted the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, contained in the annex to that resolution, as a broad framework to guide national action and international co-operation on policies and programmes aimed at achieving environmentally sound development, and specifically as a guide to the preparation of further system-wide medium-term environment programmes and the medium-term programmes of the organizations and bodies of the

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8/ The report of the Governing Council of UNEP will be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

9/ The Council's attention is drawn to the annotations to the question entitled "Desertification and drought" (item 7 (i)).

United Nations system, in the light of UNEP Governing Council decision 14/13, and requested the governing bodies of relevant United Nations organizations to report regularly to the Assembly on the progress made in achieving the objectives of environmentally sound and sustainable development in line with paragraph 114 of the Environmental Perspective. In its resolution 42/187, the Assembly, noting that the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond had taken account of the main recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, entitled "Our Common Future" (A/42/427, annex), and requested the Secretary-General to review and co-ordinate on a regular basis the efforts of all the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to pursue sustainable development, and to report thereon to the Assembly through the Governing Council and the Council. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 (A/44/350) and requested the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Governing Council of UNEP and the Economic and Social Council, a progress report on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 44/227).

106. Possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite UNEP, the World Meteorological Organization and, through them, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take account in their work of the particular situation of islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, by undertaking further scientific studies and by seeking ways to address the problems of sea-level rise, inter alia, by providing expertise, as requested, in accordance with their specific mandates for improved management of coastal zones, recommended that the vulnerability of affected countries and their marine ecosystems to sea-level rise be considered during discussions of a draft framework convention on climate, and within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and during its preparatory process, and requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council of UNEP (resolution 44/206).

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its sixteenth session

Report of the Secretary-General on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas

(i) Desertification and drought 10/

107. Countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa. The General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, appealed urgently to the international community to continue to support the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification in the countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Economic Community for West African States, in the Maghreb countries, in Egypt and in the Sudan (COMIDES) and the other competent organizations, and endorsed Council resolution 1989/103, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the situation in countries stricken by desertification and drought and to prepare, as necessary, specific and co-ordinated proposals for action (Assembly decision 44/437).

108. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. Also at its forty-fourth session, the Assembly invited the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to accord high priority to desertification control and to deploy all means necessary, including financial, scientific and technological resources, to halt and reverse the process of desertification with a view to preserving the ecological balance of the planet, and requested the Secretary-General, together with the Executive Director of UNEP, to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the various provisions of the resolution, and to ensure that it was submitted, immediately after publication, to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference (resolution 44/172 A).

109. Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region. The Secretary-General reports regularly to the General Assembly, through the Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council, on the activities of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, which has been designated the focal point for co-ordinating United Nations efforts to assist the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in carrying out their recovery and rehabilitation programme (Council resolution 1978/37 and Assembly resolution 40/209).

110. Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda. The Secretary-General apprises the Council annually, at its second regular session, of the status of this question (Council resolution 1983/46).

10/ This question will be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolutions on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region

(j) Transport of dangerous goods

111. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which held its sixteenth session at Geneva from 3 to 12 December 1990. The Committee was established in pursuance of Council resolution 645 G (XXIII). The Secretary-General reports biennially to the Council on the work of the Committee (Council resolution 1488 (XLVIII)).

112. At its second regular session of 1989, the Council adopted resolution 1989/104 on the work of the Committee.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

(k) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development

113. In its resolution 42/178 on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session and, in order to strengthen further the work of the United Nations in integrating women effectively in economic programmes and operational activities, to prepare biennially, as an annex to the report mentioned above, an update of mandates governing the integration of women in economic development adopted by the Assembly, the Council and the Commission on the Status of Women and by world conferences of the United Nations system, a list of the titles of all subprogrammes and programme elements relating to the integration of women in development, as contained in the proposed programme budget and in revisions to the medium-term plan, and a compilation of decisions taken by United Nations intergovernmental bodies other than the Commission, the Council and the Assembly relating to the integration of women in development.

114. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to include in his 1991 report on operational activities for development of the United Nations system a separate chapter on United Nations efforts to integrate women in development (resolution 44/171).

115. The Council will also have before it the relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-fifth session.

116. The attention of the Council is drawn to the section of the World Economic Survey, 1991, which provides information about the status of women and their contribution to economic development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development

Relevant section of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-fifth session

(l) World Decade for Cultural Development

117. In its resolution 41/187, the General Assembly proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the mid-term review of the World Decade (A/45/277-E/1990/77 and Add.1), invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to include specific proposals, taking into account the views of Governments, on the modalities of a mid-term review in the second biennial report on progress in the implementation of the World Decade for Cultural Development, to be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, and decided to include, on a biennial basis in its agenda for subsequent sessions, a sub-item entitled "World Decade for Cultural Development" under the item entitled "Development and international economic co-operation" (resolution 45/189).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on progress in the implementation of the World Decade for Cultural Development

Item 9. Industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries

118. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly recommended that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in close co-operation with the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, make recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, with a view to strengthening effectively industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries (resolution 45/196).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the recommendations of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on strengthening industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries

Item 10. International co-operation in the field of informatics

119. The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on all aspects of international co-operation in the field of informatics and the impact of informatics on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, including concrete recommendations for intensifying and strengthening international co-operation in that field in the context of the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries (resolution 1990/58).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international co-operation in the field of informatics

Item 11. Operational activities for development

120. The Council will have before it the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the operational activities of the United Nations system, as well as the report of the Director-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, on a consolidated system-wide basis.

121. The first-mentioned report of the Director-General discusses a number of policy and management issues affecting the coherence and functioning of system-wide activities in the light of the relevant decisions of the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system.

122. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/211 on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly, inter alia, requested the

Director-General to conduct an independent study aimed at developing, among other possible ways to improve the United Nations system's co-ordination at the country level, the concept of a document containing the United Nations system's integrated operational response, at the country level, to the national programme framework of the recipient Government for operational activities for development, which would give greater coherence to existing programming instruments, and to submit that study to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, including an analysis containing his views on the impact of that approach, in particular on the role of the resident co-ordinator, on the leadership role of the United Nations Development Programme and on the relationship and relevance of such an approach vis-à-vis the existing co-ordinating mechanisms of the United Nations system at the country level, such as National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes and round tables, as well as consultative groups, and possible ways for the implementation of the relevant elements contained therein; to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990 a proposed three-year schedule for the implementation of the resolution by all the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and to draw attention to recommendations on which he considered additional guidance was required, particularly those facilitating the full implementation of that resolution, and make available the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation containing his recommendations for the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development (A/44/324-E/1989/106/Add.3); and to submit, for the next three years, annual reports on the implementation of the present resolution, on a consolidated system-wide basis, to the Council at its second regular session. The Assembly also reaffirmed the provision contained in its resolution 32/197 concerning the representation of developing countries at the executive management and other central decision-making levels of secretariat structures in the area of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and requested the Director-General to include, in his annual report to the Council, a section on the implementation of that provision.

123. In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to make the adjustments required to implement the relevant provisions of the resolution and to prepare information on the measures taken, to be included, starting in 1991, in the annual reports of the Director-General submitted through the Council to the Assembly.

124. The three-year schedule proposed by the Director-General for the implementation of resolution 44/211 is contained in document A/45/273-E/1990/85 and Corr.1, annex.

125. The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme will report on the work of its thirty-eighth session (Headquarters, 3-28 June 1991), as well as on its organizational meeting and special session (Headquarters, 19-22 February 1991) (Assembly resolution 2029 (XX)).

126. It is expected that the Governing Council will report, inter alia, on its consideration of the following funds and programmes:

(a) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General. 11/ The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme reports annually to the Economic and Social Council on the technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General (Assembly resolution 2029 (XX));

(b) United Nations Capital Development Fund. 11/ The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme reports regularly to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council on the activities of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (Assembly resolutions 2186 (XXI) and 2321 (XXII));

(c) United Nations Volunteers programme. 11/ The Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme report regularly on the United Nations Volunteers programme, through the Governing Council of the Programme and the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly (Assembly resolution 33/84);

(d) United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration. The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme submits a report on the progress and operation of the Fund to the Economic and Social Council every two years (Council resolution 1762 (LIV) and Assembly resolution 36/200).

127. High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. 11/ The Committee is entrusted with the overall intergovernmental review of technical co-operation among developing countries within the United Nations system. It reports to the General Assembly through the Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (Assembly resolution 33/134). The Committee is scheduled to hold its seventh session at Headquarters in May 1991.

128. Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The Committee submits an annual report to the Council (Assembly resolution 3404 (XXX)). The Committee will adopt its sixteenth annual report, covering the year 1990, at its thirty-first session, to be held at Rome in May-June 1991).

129. At its second regular session of 1990, the Economic and Social Council welcomed the decision of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to establish a sub-committee of the whole of the Committee to review the governance of the World Food Programme and the relationships between the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme and requested the Committee to report to the Council in 1991 on its consideration of the important review carried out by the sub-committee (resolution 1990/79).

130. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to participate fully in the review of governance

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11/ This question will be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

arrangements of the World Food Programme and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the participation of the United Nations in the review of the governance arrangements for the World Food Programme (resolution 45/218).

131. United Nations Children's Fund. The Executive Board of UNICEF reports annually to the Council (Assembly resolution 802 (VIII)). 12/ Its annual session will be held at Headquarters from 22 April to 3 May 1991.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the operational activities of the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system on a consolidated system-wide basis

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries on its seventh session

Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

Report of the Secretary-General on the participation of the United Nations in the review of the governance arrangements of the World Food Programme

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Item 12. Co-ordination questions

Reports of CPC and ACC

132. The report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) on its thirty-first session (Headquarters, 13 May-7 June 1991) will include the Committee's views on its consideration of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). Other issues dealt with by CPC will be considered under the relevant agenda items.

12/ This question will not be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

133. ACC submits an annual report to the Council (Council resolution 13 (III)). In 1979, ACC restructured its machinery in the light of General Assembly resolution 32/197; issues of system-wide scope dealt with by ACC will be considered under the relevant agenda items. In order to provide the Council with a summary of the work carried out by the ACC machinery over the past 12 months, a brief annual report will be submitted.

134. Review of the implementation of Council resolution 1988/64 on the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC. In resolution 1988/64, the Council decided that, in future, the Joint Meetings should be held in New York in conjunction with the autumn session of ACC, in order to facilitate the participation of the members of CPC at a high level, as well as the participation of the executive heads of the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes, decided also that appropriate measures for effective intergovernmental and intersecretariat follow-up of the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meetings should be reported, through CPC, to the Council at its second regular session in the following year, and decided further to review the implementation of the resolution at its second regular session of 1991 in the context of the study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields (E/1988/75).

135. It will be recalled that the Council, at its resumed second regular session of 1990, took note of the report of the Chairmen of CPC and ACC on the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1990/123), held at Headquarters on 19 and 25-26 October 1990 (decision 1990/290).

136. In that report it was stated that efforts should be made to improve the annual overview report of ACC by making it more analytical and forward-looking, and that ACC should highlight problems of co-ordination requiring urgent attention and action by Governments, as well as proposals on courses of action to be taken, agencies responsible and resources needed.

137. International Literacy Year. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year (resolution 42/104). At its forty-fourth session, the Assembly, inter alia, invited Governments that had not yet done so to establish a programme of measures for enhancing literacy and functional literacy for the period up to the year 2000 along the lines of the Plan of Action for the Eradication of Illiteracy by the Year 2000 of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO to give wide publicity to the activities and measures to be undertaken during the Year, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the programme for International Literacy Year (resolution 44/127).

138. System-wide co-ordination of activities to advance the status of women and to integrate women in development. At its second regular session of 1989, the Council, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, to report to CPC and the Council, biennially in odd-numbered years

beginning in 1991, on the extent to which the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development was incorporated into the programmes and programme budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system (resolution 1989/105).

139. Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in view of the serious implications of the AIDS pandemic for development in general in many developing countries, to intensify his efforts, in collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the heads of the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund and all other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to mobilize the cumulative experience of the United Nations system in the strategic planning of multi-sectoral projects and the raising of funds in support of those countries requesting assistance, and also requested the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in close collaboration with the other organizations of the United Nations system and without prejudice to ongoing priorities and programmes, to continue to advance the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 45/187).

140. Refugees, displaced persons and returnees. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council requested the Secretary-General to initiate a United Nations system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in the co-ordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees, and the full spectrum of their needs, in supporting the efforts of the affected countries, and, on the basis of the system-wide review and within existing resources, to recommend ways of maximizing co-operation and co-ordination among the various organizations of the United Nations system in order to ensure an effective response by the United Nations system to the problems of refugees, displaced persons and returnees, keeping in mind the mandates of the United Nations organizations concerned, and to report on the results of the system-wide review and on the recommendations emanating therefrom to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 (resolution 1990/78).

141. The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolutions 45/140 A and B entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

Documentation

Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its thirty-first session

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1990

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for International Literacy Year

Report of the Secretary-General on the system-wide co-ordination of activities to advance the status of women and to integrate women in development

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

Report of the Secretary-General on the system-wide review on co-ordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees

Item 13. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

142. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid and to report thereon to the Council; it requested the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 (resolution 1990/60). At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Council to continue, as appropriate, to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, appropriate measures for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly (resolution 45/18).

143. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 45/13 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity.

144. Assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movement by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. The Council reviews annually, in consultation with the Special Committee against Apartheid, the assistance provided by agencies and institutions of the United Nations system in the context of General Assembly resolution 33/183 K.

145. Assistance to the Palestinian people. At its sixth-third session, in 1977, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people (resolution 2100 (LXIII)).

146. The Council, at its second regular session of 1990, and the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, adopted resolutions concerning assistance to the Palestinian people and respectively requested the Secretary-General to report in full to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolutions on this question (Council resolution 1990/60 and Assembly resolution 45/183).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people

Item 14. Programme and related questions

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

147. In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Secretary-General will circulate the sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 covering activities in the economic, social and human rights fields. The Council will consider the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the matter, with a view to submitting its own recommendations thereon to the General Assembly (Council resolution 1988/77). The attention of the Council is drawn to section II of General Assembly resolution 41/213, concerning the planning, programming and budgeting process, as well as Assembly resolutions 42/211, 43/214, 44/200 and 45/255.

Documentation

Relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its thirty-first session

(b) Calendar of conferences

148. The Council will be required to draw up its calendar of conferences and meetings for 1992 and 1993 (Council decision 52 (LVII)). In the context of its consideration of the calendar, the Council may wish to consider once more the question of the discontinuance of summary records for some of its subsidiary bodies and for its sessional committees (see Council decision 1985/200).

Documentation

Draft calendar of conferences and meetings for 1992 and 1993

Item 15. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

149. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning on 1 January 1990. The Assembly adopted the International Framework of Action for the Decade, in which, inter alia, the Secretary-General was requested to report biennially to the General Assembly, through the Council, on the activities of the Decade (resolution 44/236).

150. At its forty-fifth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the progress in the implementation of the programmes and activities of the Decade, including the identification of the constraints in that regard, with appropriate attention to the status of existing international protocols and conventions for mutual assistance in cases of disaster, in accordance with paragraph 4 of its resolution 44/236 (resolution 45/185).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Item 16. Disaster reduction and relief

(a) Fight against the screw-worm infestation

151. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council urged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to strengthen its co-ordination mechanisms and its technical and field operation support to countries for an eradication campaign aimed at eliminating the screw-worm from North Africa, the Mediterranean parts of Europe and the Near East, through use of the Sterile Insect Technique, and invited the Director-General of FAO to submit to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 an up-to-date report on the screw-worm infestation and efforts undertaken to eradicate it (resolution 1990/61).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the screw-worm infestation and efforts undertaken to eradicate it

(b) International strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa

152. Also at its second regular session of 1990, the Council requested FAO, over the short and medium term, to reinforce existing structures and current technologies, including early warning systems such as ARTEMIS (Africa Real Time Environmental Monitoring using Imaging Satellites), which contribute to preventive control, and requested the Director-General of FAO to submit to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 an up-to-date report on the implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa (resolution 1990/62).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa

(c) Disaster relief co-ordination

153. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly endorsed Council resolution 1990/63 concerning the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), requested the Secretary-General to make proposals to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 for the strengthening of the capacity of UNDRO to fulfil its mandate, which are to be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, requested the Council to review the situation at its second regular session of 1991, and requested the Secretary-General to include information on the implementation of the resolution in his next biennial report on UNDRO, to be submitted to the Assembly on an exceptional basis at its forty-sixth session, through the Council at its second regular session of 1991 (resolution 45/221).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

Item 17. Special economic and humanitarian assistance

(a) Special programmes of economic assistance

154. The Council will hear oral reports on the implementation of a number of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. Written reports will be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session. A brief summary of the main provisions of these resolutions is given below:

Resolution 45/222 on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Yemen, in which the Assembly, taking note of Council resolution 1990/65, called upon the Secretary-General to carry out an evaluation of the requirements of Yemen with a view to drawing up a programme for the reconstruction and development of Yemen, following the damage to the infrastructure of the country, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council at its second regular session of 1991, on the implementation of the resolution;

Resolution 45/226 on Operation Lifeline Sudan, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to monitor and assess the evolution of the emergency situation in the Sudan and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on all matters connected with the implementation of emergency and relief operations in the Sudan and to offer appropriate briefings during the intervening period.

(b) Humanitarian assistance

155. The Council will hear oral reports on the progress made in the implementation of a number of resolutions on humanitarian assistance adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. Written reports will be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session. A brief summary of the main provisions of these resolutions is given below:

Resolution 45/154 on assistance to refugees in Somalia, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1991, of the progress made in their respective fields of responsibility with regard to the provisions of the resolution which concern them;

Resolution 45/157 on humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti, in which the Assembly urged the High Commissioner to intensify his efforts to mobilize, on an emergency basis, the resources necessary to implement lasting solutions with respect to the refugees in Djibouti and the increasing inflow of externally displaced persons, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the implementation of the resolution;

Resolution 45/159 on assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary financial and material assistance for the full implementation of ongoing projects in the areas affected by the presence of refugees and displaced persons and programmes currently being implemented, requested the High Commissioner to continue co-ordination with the appropriate specialized agencies, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the implementation of the resolution;

Resolution 45/160 on the situation of refugees in the Sudan, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to mobilize the necessary financial and material assistance for the full implementation of ongoing projects in the areas affected by the presence of refugees and requested the High Commissioner to continue co-ordination with the appropriate specialized agencies, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the implementation of the resolution;

Resolution 45/161 on assistance to refugees and returnees in Ethiopia, in which the Assembly requested the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of voluntary returnees and the large number of refugees in Ethiopia, and requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to apprise the Council, at its second regular session of 1991, on the implementation of the resolution;

Resolution 45/171 on assistance to student refugees in southern Africa, in

which the Assembly requested the High Commissioner, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to continue to keep the matter under review and to apprise the Council of the current status of the programmes.

Item 18. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

156. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports annually to the General Assembly through the Council, in conformity with paragraph 11 of the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (General Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex).

157. At its fifty-first session, in 1971, the Council decided that the report of the High Commissioner should be transmitted to the Assembly without debate, unless the Council decided otherwise, at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner, at the time of the adoption of its agenda (resolution 1623 (LI), sect. II).

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

158. In accordance with the procedures set out in the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, as approved by the General Assembly in resolution 31/192, the Joint Inspection Unit reports annually to the Council on activities under the general responsibility of the Council. In accordance with the practice followed by the Council, reports that relate to agenda items will be considered under those items; reports that do not relate to agenda items will be considered separately.

159. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly invited United Nations organs, when considering reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, to bear in mind the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of the 1983 annual report of the Unit (resolution 38/229). The recommendation read as follows:

> "Because of the method of discussion of JIU reports in the past, clear decisions on the recommendations contained in JIU reports have not always been taken. This lack of clarity hinders effective follow-up by JIU. Legislative bodies of participating organizations could consider the possibility of adopting formulations along the following lines:
>
> "(a) Approves recommendations _____, and _____;
>
> "(b) Approves recommendations _____, and _____ in the light of the comments thereon by the Secretary-General (and/or ACC; and/or the debate in the Committee);
>
> "(c) Reserves its position on recommendations _____, and _____ in the light of the debate in the Committee;

"(d) Does not approve recommendations _____, and _____". 13/

160. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly requested all bodies of the United Nations system to examine closely those reports of the Joint Inspection Unit that were within their respective areas of competence and to comment, as appropriate, on the recommendations contained therein (resolution 42/218). The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 45/237.

C. Special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council in 1991 (Geneva, 4 and 5 July 1991)

161. At its second regular session of 1988, the Council decided, with a view to formulating and elaborating action-oriented recommendations, that it should undertake annually in-depth discussions of major policy themes, to be selected on the basis of a multi-year work programme derived, inter alia, from the priorities set out in the medium-term plan of the United Nations and the work programmes of other relevant United Nations bodies (resolution 1988/77). In paragraph 4 of its resolution 1989/114, the Council decided that the thematic analyses should review existing activities and be forward-looking in identifying policy options and gave further guidelines for their presentation.

162. At its organizational session for 1990, the Council decided that the major policy theme for 1991 would be the following: "The impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic co-operation". The Council also decided that the discussion of the theme should be at a special meeting at an appropriately high level and that it should be held on 4 and 5 July 1991 during its second regular session. The special meeting should be separate from the regular proceedings of the Council and precede its general discussion of international economic and social policy (decision 1990/205). At its second regular session of that year, the Council invited its President to convene a one-day preparatory meeting of the Council before the special high-level meeting (resolution 1990/68).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic co-operation

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13/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/38/34), para. 12.